

rule, 30 minutes equally divided for each of these three amendments; Roth, reintroduce title VIII to bill, 5 minutes equally divided—

Mr. FORD. That has been taken care of.

Mr. McCAIN. That amendment would be removed.

Thompson, criminal penalties for airmen who fly without a certificate; Torricelli-Lautenberg, Quiet Communities Act, 1 hour equally divided; Torricelli, relevant; D'Amato-Moynihan, DOT issue 70 slot exemptions at JFK Airport, New York, 10 minutes equally divided; Lott-Frist-Moynihan amendment, limit eligible airport size for regional jet section, and Reagan National commuter slots, 10 minutes equally divided; Reed of Rhode Island, noise at Rhode Island airport, 15 minutes equally divided; Reed of Rhode Island, code-sharing notice, 15 minutes equally divided; Robb, Reagan National Airport, slots and perimeter rule, 1 hour equally divided; Warner, prohibit new Reagan National slots and perimeter rule exemptions until MWA nominees confirmed by the Senate, 1 hour equally divided; Warner, notice, comment and hearings before proceeding with Reagan National slots and perimeter rule exemptions, 1 hour equally divided; Domenici amendment regarding Taos; D'Amato, travel agents, 20 minutes equally divided; Coats, Reagan National Airport slots; Daschle, relevant.

Mr. FORD. McCain-Ford managers' amendment.

Mr. McCAIN. I did that at the start.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCAIN. Before I proceed further, I do want to say that although it looks like there are a lot of amendments, we are working out agreements on almost all of them. So I urge my colleagues to get with us tomorrow. We can work out these agreements and have two or three amendments and hopefully get this legislation passed today.

Before I proceed, I ask if the distinguished Senator from Kentucky has any remarks.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I have no disagreement with the unanimous consent proposal, particularly retaining the relevancy that is in effect now. There is only one question I might have. There is a Torricelli-Lautenberg Quiet Communities Act amendment that should be for both, I think. And just so long as that is understood that it is not two amendments; it is only one.

Mr. McCAIN. That is a Torricelli-Lautenberg amendment.

Mr. FORD. One amendment rather than two. If we could cut an amendment off now, we ought to do it instead of waiting until tomorrow. So I agree with my colleague, we have an opportunity to finish this bill tomorrow. And it is one of those "must-pass" bills. And I am very hopeful that we

can do it. We are here. Our staff is available. We are very amenable right now and probably more so tomorrow; but toward noon and a little after we may get intolerable. So let's hope we can do things early in the morning after our first vote.

I thank the Chair and thank my colleague.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, just for the record, I want to make it clear that these are first-degree amendments only.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The RECORD will so reflect.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SENATOR HAGEL'S 100TH PRESIDING HOUR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have the pleasure to announce that Senator CHUCK HAGEL is the latest recipient of the Senate's golden gavel award, marking his 100th hour of presiding over the U.S. Senate.

The golden gavel award has long served as a symbol of appreciation for the time that Senators contribute to presiding over the U.S. Senate—a privileged and important duty. Since the 1960's, Senators who preside for 100 hours have been recognized with this coveted award.

On behalf of the Senate, I extend our sincere appreciation to Senator HAGEL and his diligent staff for their efforts and commitment to presiding duties during the 105th Congress.

PREPARING FOR FUTURE BATTLEFIELDS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in June 1997, Senator GLENN, Senator LEVIN, and I requested the General Accounting Office (GAO) to examine the Department of Defense's (DOD) approach for addressing U.S. troop exposures to low levels of chemical warfare agents. That report is being released today. This kind of exposure, most recently experienced in the immediate aftermath of the Persian Gulf War—and possibly during it—is likely to become an ever greater threat, as more nations seek a battlefield advantage by employing the "poor man's bomb," chemical weapons. Our concern was to ensure that the Department of Defense had, in fact, learned the lessons of the Persian Gulf War and had taken effective steps to address any weaknesses that might result in the soldiers of future wars being needlessly harmed by exposure to low levels of chemical weapons. It is one thing to suffer cas-

ualties on the battlefield due to the misfortunes of war; it is quite another thing to inflict on American service men and women unnecessary wounds caused by a lack of foresight and planning. That is unacceptable.

Unfortunately, what the GAO discovered is that, as far as chemical weapons and chemical battlefields are concerned, the United States military is still in Cold War mode. DOD's focus in this area is still to enable U.S. forces to survive, fight, and win in the dreaded all-out nuclear, biological, and chemical battlefields of the Cold War. DOD has no strategy to address low-level exposures to chemical warfare agents. None. Nada. Zip. Despite the fact that existing DOD-conducted research indicates that low-level exposures to some chemical warfare agents may result in adverse short-term performance and long-term health effects, the Department of Defense has not stated a policy or developed doctrine on the protection of troops from low-level exposures to chemical warfare agents on the battlefield. Apparently, DOD prefers to concentrate on "winning," and hand off any chemical casualties to the Department of Veterans Affairs with a "no longer my business" attitude. I think we need to look at the bigger picture and give the safety of our military personnel the consideration they certainly deserve.

Even in the wake of disclosures by DOD that approximately 100,000 U.S. troops might have been exposed to some harmful level of chemical nerve and blister agents resulting from the destruction of a single Iraqi munitions dump, less than two percent of DOD's chemical and biological defense research and development program funds have been allocated to low-level chemical exposure issues in the two years since those disclosures. DOD claims that there is "no validated threat" of low-level chemical exposure to warrant greater effort, even as it continues to analyze other incidents during the Gulf War that may result in more troops being notified that they may have been exposed to low doses of chemical warfare agents. Moreover, the GAO report notes that DOD did a study just last year analyzing the impact of state sponsored terrorist attacks using low levels of chemical warfare agent to clandestinely disrupt U.S. military operations.

It seems both prudent and reasonable to at least begin the conceptual work to address the issue of low-level exposures to chemical warfare agents. But what GAO found instead was a few uncoordinated efforts by concerned offices to look into this current and future threat. This issue demands a top-down approach, in which the broad strategy or framework can guide the development of research, new technology, and operational practice to better defend American men and women, our sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, when they don the uniform of the United